WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer monitoring and diagnostic system, comprising:

a computer;

a plurality of sensors capable of sensing conditions of the computer; and

a microcontroller network, comprising a plurality of interconnected microcontrollers, connected to the sensors and the computer, wherein the microcontroller network processes requests for conditions from the computer and responsively provides sensed conditions to the computer.

2. The system defined in Claim 1, additionally comprising a client computer connected directly to the microcontroller network to submit condition requests.

3. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the computer includes a plurality of canisters and the microcontroller network controls power to the canisters.

4. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the microcontroller network controls power to a slot.

5. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the microcontroller network logs conditions to a recording system.

6. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the microcontroller network logs messages to non-volatile random access memory.

7. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the microcontroller network controls the system power to the computer.

8. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the microcontroller network is interconnected by an I^2C bus.

9. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein one of the microcontrollers in the microcontroller network is connected to a canister.

10. The system defined in Claim 1, further comprising an actuator connected to the microcontroller network, wherein the actuator modifies an environmental condition of the computer.